

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR AGRICULTURE: UPDATE INITIATIVE 2007

County Agricultural Development Councils have the responsibility to evaluate the needs of the local agricultural economy and through the County Comprehensive Plan identify programs and projects best suited for agricultural development fund investment in the County. Since the original plans were approved in 2001, most Councils have not implemented a complete review and update of their plans.

Therefore, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has approved a major initiative in 2007 to encourage and support County Agricultural Development Councils to review and update their County Comprehensive Plans. This document provides the guidelines and recommendations to Councils who choose to implement an update.

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy along with Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service leadership will coordinate this initiative.

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Staff is available to provide, as needed, the following to the Extension Agent & Council Chairmen:

- Guidelines and recommendations for this initiative, along with the questions the Council should consider,
- Guidance throughout the process,
- A presentation to the Council or public forum that may include:
 - Overview of HB 611
 - Responsibilities of Council as described in HB 611
 - Overview of State wide ADF investments
 - Review of Kentucky's Long-Term Plan for Agricultural Development
 - Overview of KADB policies, including its Guiding Principals,
- A listing of projects that the county has funded,
- Recommendations on how to structure public forums to accomplish the goals of the Council,
- Agriculture statistics for the County and State, and
- Examples of non-model projects funded across the Commonwealth with County Funds.

County Agricultural Development Councils responsibilities:

- Review current County Comprehensive Plan,
- Address the list of questions provided by GOAP,
- Determine the need to update the County Comprehensive Plan,
- If the Council decides to update the County's plan, then it should develop a plan for the review and update that may include:
 - Holding public forum to allow input from the local Agriculture Community on future needs of county,
 - Identifying key leaders in the county to involve

- Reviewing all county projects funded with county money
- Determining the benefit or lack of benefit from that investment
- Reviewing Agriculture statistics and trends locally and regionally
- Identifying future investment opportunities, both locally and regionally
- Identifying areas of success they wish to continue funding
- Consider and approve changes to County Comprehensive Plan,
- Submit revised County Comprehensive Plan to GOAP,
- Develop a new action plan based on revised county priorities.

Cooperative Extension Service Responsibilities:

Facilitate Discussions with County Agricultural Development Board regarding County Comprehensive Plans

Assist County Agricultural Development Board Councils in gathering wide input on agricultural and commercial horticulture needs and future directions.

Establish a timeline for completion of Plan Review and Revision consistent with development of new CES Plan of Work and ensure that any plan revisions are submitted to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy by 12/31/2007.

Possible questions from GOAP

1. What investment of county funds has provided the most benefit? The least benefit? What is the basis for determining benefit?
2. Does your current Comprehensive Plan address today's agricultural needs in your County?
3. What agriculture trends are taking place in your county in traditional and non-traditional enterprises? Are there outside influences (non-agriculture, such as urban growth or special environmental situations) that are influencing agriculture? What future trends in agriculture will affect the use of your county funds?
4. What are the top major effects that agricultural development funds have had on your local agribusiness and general economy?
5. Do the short-term and long-term priorities in your Plan match your investment history? Does your County Council reference your Plan when making funding decisions?
6. What effect has the federal tobacco buy-out had on your county that was not addressed in your current plan?